



CHARLESTON, S. C.

Saturday, May 23d, 1867.

6, H. CASE, Editor.

J. S. BAGGOT, Associate Editor.

THE RECONSTRUCTION BILL.

The text of this bill, etc., the Constitutional Amendment and the Supplementary bill is doubtless familiar to the majority of readers of the *Leader*, and the changes to effect in our State politics are probably well understood.

The supplementary bill is designed to insinuate the practical part of the work of reconstruction in harmony with the "policy" of Congress, the will of the people and the destiny of the nation. It provides for the registration of voters; specifies the time within which it shall be done; the time for the election of Delegates for the Convention; in a word, does all that is necessary to set the bill in motion to reorganize the State Government on the basis of equal rights and universal suffrage. Registrars will be appointed for each election District, and every male citizen who has resided within the State one year previous to the election to be held after the registration, and who is not disqualified by participation in the rebellion or for crime, of the age of twenty-one years will be allowed to register.

This enfranchises virtually all of the black population of the Southern States, disfranchises a part of the white, completes the overthrow of the rebellion and agrees with Andrew Johnson's previous sentiments. To be more particular:

First—It removes the freedom from the oppression and injustice which would result from the legislation of his former master.

Second—It confers upon him the high privileges of citizenship.

Third—It establishes a republican form of government, in that it secures the right to vote to the majority of inhabitants or men within the State who are not legally excluded.

Fourth—It establishes the authority and power of the national Government and makes treason a crime.

Fifth—It places within the hands of the friends of freedmen and the Union the control of the State and will doubtless, for that very reason, exercise a beneficent influence on its material reconstruction and further development of its resources. Responsibility will quicken and strengthen the thousands of colored men now within the State and a liberal policy will invite laborers in abundance, and a New South will rise from the blackened ruins which enshroud our land, bearing the same staple products, but disengaged of slavery and crowned with liberty, shall eclipse all that come before in glory and greatness."

"CLEAR THE DECKS."

This is the work always done on a man-of-war, previous to engagement, in order that no rubbish may interfere with the free use of the guns, and that the decks may be freely traversed. If ever there was a time when efforts should be made to "clear the decks" of the newly constructed accession to the political navy of this State, that time is now. It is fast drifting into the waters where the irreconcileable conflict is going on, it will soon be one of the combatants and its powers of endurance fearfully tried. To meet those exciting moments and pass through conflict successfully and come out victoriously, we need first to come to some agreement as to our plan of action in them. We need to form a great, bold, and substantial political platform having its foundation on the eternal principles declared by the illustrious fathers, viz.; that all men are free and equal, and that Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, and then to advocate these principles, by every means at our command till their a strong political party formed comprising a majority of the voters under the military bill now in the State.

For political purposes we must ignore all social distinctions and church boundaries, forget the past and live to the present and look to the glorious future. This must be done at once, or commenced at once, if we could secure the triumph we desire, or we may find ourselves as a class, "Saddled and bridled, carrying our pretended friends but real enemies into place and power and our harvests turn out like that of the careless husbandman whose fields had been strewn with pernicious weeds by his enemies while he slept." I need not argue the importance of political union among the colored people of the State nor the need of a political creed to which all can subscribe, for I cannot conceive that there can be any difference of opinion existing among ourselves or friends on these

questions. The only question to be settled now is as to the method of bringing it about. How is the Union to be effected? I am not a politician, but I think the best thing necessary is a thorough canvassing of all the questions relating to our present political situation by means of the press, stump and pulpit. A work in which the *Leader* can take a very large share and I sincerely hope will prove herself equal to the opportunities and responsibilities. Following this discussion let there come forth the basis of a party to which the black man can conscientiously and without prejudice to his interests devoutly adhere, and the greater part of the work is done. I lay down my pen in the hope that this subject and questions relating to it will be taken up by others and feel justice done them. It concerns the people at large and should be freely discussed by them."

ANDERSON'S

THE PEADODY GIFT.

The great charity-gift of George Peabody, Esq., for the benefit of the South is being applied for by the hungry ones, with amazing rapidity. Efforts are on foot to enjoy the benefits at the earliest possible date. The whites, with their usual shrewdness and cunning, are appropriating so rapidly that it will all be absorbed in a short time. It is a pity that a certain part had not been specified by the donor for the benefit of the colored youths; or, that the selection of a man to execute the will of the donor had not been more happy. By the time a person is found willing to give the due proportion to the colored people in South Carolina, the appropriations will all have been made, and there will be "no more left." Mr. Peabody had selected Mr. Wagner, Wm. Whaley or Gov. Martini, to carry out his will, the colored people might have stood a tolerable chance—they were out and Confederates, sitting the Davis government above board—and when a change came they manifestly accepted the situation—and to-day, the colored man may find in them better friends than in a man who could give his money to entartain Confederate officers and give his means to carry on the war against the United States, and then cry out, "I am a Union man," and advise the continuance of the disfranchisement of the blacks—because they would be likely to vote for their old "masters"; and yet, he was the owner of nine hundred and ninety-nine at the same time. Such a man cannot be trusted. We fear for the poor negroes' interests, if left in such hands. Give us an open foe and a fair fight, and we will trust to luck. "He who steals my purse, gets trash—but he who robs me of my good name takes that which will not enrich him, but leaves me poor and miserable." The negro, we trust, will know how to treat such crafty hypocrites, who, at heart, are traitors to their country, and enemies to the negro—yet have not the baseness to avow their true sentiments. Under the gath of loyalty, they seek to carry on their nefarious dealings.

WILL THE COUNTRY BE BENEFITED BY THE ENFRANCHISEMENT OF THE NEGRO?

Amid the revelations incident to national progress, there are always double entertainments among the best and wisest of men, as to whether the changes in life are for the best, or whether the measures—new in their bearings and results—will justify the hazards in question, and interests so momentous to the well-being of mankind?

The fierce and rapid tide of Republicanism which swept over France during the days of Robespierre, Danton and their compatriots, with all the purifying and electrifying influences which Liberty could give to a nation, were but the initiatory steps in the great drama of a people bounding forth to a higher and more dignified national character. It is true that crowned heads were dissatisfied, peers and lords were disturbed, the aristocracy—that old relic of barbarous ages—were discomfited; but, the people—the great masses—were enfranchised, received their birth-right, and the beautiful Goddess of Liberty, the mother of us all, was enthroned.

Conservatives of that time deplored the destruction of government; "constitutional liberty," they said was destroyed; law and order had no place in which to dwell, said they. But they spoke for themselves, not for the people. They deplored the loss of power, place and preferment; so they were opposed to the government erected by the people. But the results in France have proved that revolutions never go backwards. They purify and Re-habilitate a nation. Did France sink into insignificance after her internal troubles? Did England lose her power and influence after Cromwell had guided the helm of state and bumbled the proud aristocracy of the realm? Did America sink into ignominy after she had successfully

met the opposing hosts of King George? Has there been degradation entailed upon the descendants of those who rose up in their might and hurled from power, the usurpers of man's liberty in the original thirteen States? No. The genius of liberty which inspired Patrick Henry, Jefferson, Washington, and their compatriots, prepared the way for their descendants to achieve a higher destiny. Those principles which make the Americans the in all which constitute greatness, after their liberation from the oppression of England, will give to the colored men in their midst, the same impetus—and will conduct them through all the changes and ultimately bring them into the happy realization of true freedom, which is a proper appreciation of all the benefits of government and political equality.

The country will be benefited by this change in various ways. The constant irritation consequent upon the disfranchisement of so large a number of citizens, will be avoided. Mistrusts and dissensions will necessarily cease—confidence and mutual goodwill will be established among all classes—our interests being identical, our efforts will be harmonious. The colored man feeling that he is an important part of the government, will seek to sustain the same; being a citizen of the State, he will feel all the pride of a participant in her destiny. Her political influence in the national affairs will be a matter of constant consideration to him—the return of election days—the contests for office—the onerous duties which will devolve upon him as a participant in the glory of the whole nation will inspire him to efforts which will add to the prosperity of the nation. The addition to the commerce of the country is an important consideration. The four millions of people made citizens by Congress will be encouraged to remain in, and develop the resources of the South. Their wants being multiplied by the refining influences of education and enlightenment, they will require a larger amount of mercantile interchange for all the commodities of trade. The results will be a more general circulation of money, a larger range of business relations, a more extensive commerce and a larger revenue to the national Treasury. The war debt will be more speedily paid, the mineral, as well as the agricultural resources of the land will be developed, and every branch of labor receive a new energy. While politicians will have a larger field in which to labor, yet the people will be fast learning the duties of citizens, and the country will be saved from a possibility of another rebellion or internal strife.

Therefore, accept the directions of Providence and do our duties.

REPUBLICAN MASS MEETING.

A large and enthusiastic meeting was held on Thursday evening at the Military Hall in Wentworth St. to adopt a platform for the republican party and take the initiatory steps for preparing a platform for the State. The meeting was called to order by the chairman of a committee appointed at a previous meeting, H. Judge Moore, and opened by prayer by Rev. R. H. Cain. Next followed the reading of the report of the committee by Rev. E. J. Adams. To say the least of the report, it is one highly creditable to the committee and can and should be endorsed by every colored citizen in the community.

The reading of the platform was followed by a masterly speech by the Rev. gentleman in favor of universal suffrage, and supporting the resolutions offered. He claimed universal suffrage, first, on the ground of man's volition, stating that having a right to choose his pursuits in life and the God he would worship, it followed also that he should exercise that right in the choice of the rulers he would serve. He next met the objections founded on the incapacity of the blacks, and completely overthrew them by citing their conduct in the late physical struggle. He claimed it thirdly, as the only reward that could be given for their long years of suffering and unrequited toil, and their unwavering fidelity to the national government. Again he advocated it, because to abridge suffrage was incompatible with the genius of republicanism. Fifth, because union cannot be secured without it and characterized it as the only means of defense of our liberties. He here stated that the political equality here secured was very different from social equality and remarked that he would shudder if he thought the measures advocated would bring this about, lest some low drunken white enemy would creep to his fireside and marry his daughter. He closed amid immense cheering. He was followed by Rev. Mr. Cardozo, who delivered an appropriate speech teeming with excellent advice to members of the party, and abounding with caution and dismaliating warning. Space will not permit to give a report of all that very said.

Mr. Cardozo was succeeded by Rev. M. Randolph, who soon captivated every ear by his salutes of wit and ready expression.

Messrs. Delarge and Cohen also made brief and pertinent speeches. A resolution was offered by Mr. S. L. Bennett proposing the call of a mass convention which was adopted by the meeting, after which a motion for adjournment being put, the meeting adjourned to meet on Citadel square on next Tuesday afternoon, at 3 o'clock.

Rev. R. H. Cain, stated that the *South Carolina Leader* endorsed the platform which was received with cheers.

H. Judge Moore announced also that the Charleston *Advocate* adopted the creed. The crowd then dispersed and silence soon reigns profound in the venerable hall that had resounded with the hearty cheers of new-born citizens.

The following gentlemen composed the committee on Platform:

H. J. Moore, Chairman, M. G. Campbell, E. J. Adams, Peter Miller, J. N. Hayne, Jno. B. Morris, J. D. Price, Benj. Beale, J. P. M. Epping, B. F. Randolph, R. C. Delarge, F. L. Cardozo, F. B. Bennett and W. J. Brodie.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO DRAFT A PLATFORM FOR A UNION REPUBLICAN PARTY FOR SOUTH CAROLINA.

WHEREAS, the founders of this republic based the same on the self-evident truth that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness;

WHEREAS it is set forth in the "Preamble of the Federal Constitution of '87" that it was ordained, not by the several states or inhabitants thereof, but by "the people of the United States," "in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and to secure the blessings of liberty to its founders and their posterity;" and

WHEREAS, Congress, by its well considered and almost unanimous action (which action has had the sanction of the loyal people of the country), has provided by the Constitutional Amendment proposed as "Article XIV," and the recent "Reconstruction Bill" for the re-organization of the civil powers of the States lately in rebellion and for the renewal of their representation in Congress, and

WHEREAS, Congress, by its well considered and almost unanimous action (which action has had the sanction of the loyal people of the country), has provided by the Constitutional Amendment proposed as "Article XIV," and the recent "Reconstruction Bill" for the re-organization of the civil powers of the States lately in rebellion and for the renewal of their representation in Congress, and

WHEREAS, the interest of the State demands a revision of the code of law, and the reorganization of the Courts.

XII. That the interest, not only of the

State, but of the whole country, demands a modification of the laws of the State to be done away with imprisonment for debt, except for fraud and imprisonment of debtors, except for wilful absconder and especially to the colored people in this city, on Monday, the 1st instant. Now, I wish

to understand that the speech published in the *Columbia* is not a fair or correct statement of my remarks. There are some sentiments in it I never uttered, and there are some things which I did say that are not stated. My remarks were made from the impulse of the moment; nevertheless,

I would wish that they were so stated. This speech and resolution offered by N. E. Brooks, and adopted at the meeting on

the 1st instant, I helped to prepare; they represent my opinions. Yours respectfully,

In justice to Mr. Nash, we publish the following:

COLUMBIA, S. C., March 22, 1867.

T. Hanley.—Dear Sir and Brother—Telegraphic despatch at hand. Please find my answer to the article. Thank you for doing me the justice to see that I was not condemned without a hearing.

Yours respectfully,

W. B. Nash.

Messrs. Editors Columbia Phoenix:

Will you please to give this a place in your paper. I see in yesterday's *South Carolina Leader* what purports to be an address made by me to the colored people in this city, on Monday, the 1st instant. Now, I wish it understood that the speech published in the *Columbia* is not a fair or correct statement of my remarks. There are some sentiments in it I never uttered, and there are some things which I did say that are not stated. My remarks were made from the impulse of the moment; nevertheless, I would wish that they were so stated. This speech and resolution offered by N. E. Brooks, and adopted at the meeting on the 1st instant, I helped to prepare; they represent my opinions. Yours respectfully,

W. B. NASH.

COLUMBIA, S. C., March 20.

THE FIRST LECTURE before the Ladies Sewing Circle connected with St. Marks' Church was delivered by the Rev'd E. J. Adams on Tuesday evening at Military Hall, subject "Triumph of the hour." The subject was handled in a masterly manner.

The attendance was small owing to the progress of the fair for the Mission Presbyterian Church, of which the speaker is the President. The lecture will be repeated on Friday evening next at the residence of Dr. Wm. J. McKinney, subject "Energy."

Special Notice.

The corner stone of the Mission Presbyterian (N. S.) Church edifice now in course of erection, in George St. between King and St. Phillip st. will be laid on Monday afternoon, at 3 o'clock.

A friendly representation of the various denominations are invited, also the Trinity.

Several Clergymen of other Religious bodies will participate in the exercises. A collection to assist in paying for the church lot will be taken, we therefore hope that all could prepare to assist us in this direction.

E. J. Adams.

The colored citizens of Washington and Georgetown are about organizing a joint stock association, for the purpose of establishing a daily and weekly newspaper in the National Metropolis. It is stated that upward \$2,000 have already been subscribed.

Governor Bullock, of Massachusetts, with consent of Council, has appointed George L. Rudd (colored) a Justice of the Peace for the County of Suffolk.

Robert Louis, the eldest son of the late President Lincoln, has been admitted to the bar of Illinois.

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